

## **The Historic Environment**

### **Key facts**

55 Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the AONB and numerous others in the vicinity
249 Listed buildings, with many others nearby.
7 Grade I buildings – the most important category
11 Conservation Areas in or near the AONB
1 Listed garden – Plas Glyn y Weddw
Part of the AONB is within the area included on the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historical Interest in Wales.

### **Introduction**

The concept of the Historic Environment is wide ranging and includes all aspects of human influence from pre-historic times up to the present time. It therefore includes archaeological relics, remains of ancient settlements, historic buildings and structures, farms and field patterns, old quarries and works and also parks and gardens.

The effect of human habitation has made a significant impact upon the landscape of Llŷn and how the area looks today. Over the centuries various generations and groups of people have influenced the landscape to create a complex, but interesting historic environment which has a special character and sense of place.

In Llŷn there are significant numbers of Iron Age hillforts, Meini Hirion (“standing stones”), Cromlechs, Historic field boundaries, wells and ancient churches. Also the remains of granite quarries and ore mines are evident on the landscape while small villages, rural cottages and historic farm houses are features of the area. Together, all these elements create a .. which gives Penrhyn Llŷn an unique character.

Because there hasn't been much development in the area a large many historic remains have survived. Many cromlechs and standing stones can still be seen today in their original locations and features such as milestone are also common along the rural lanes. Although most of the land has been improved and farmed there are large areas of common land which consists of rare heathland and historic field patterns can still be seen today in some areas such as Rhiw and Uwchmynydd.

Historic buildings are an important and interesting part of the historic environment and they display the area's building traditions and the architectural style over periods of time. For example it is believed that some of the small cottages that are part of Llŷn's landscape were originally built at “tai unnos”. These were small simple dwellings built overnight on common land with materials that were close at hand – stones, soil, and clods. On the other hand the gentry's homes were built with dressed stone and slate – these were notable farms and small manor houses. Historic gardens are associated with some of these homes – such as Plas yn Rhiw and Cefnamwlch.

The most important historical buildings are listed by Cadw and classified as Grade I, II\* or III. Grade I buildings are the most special and valuable, Grade II\* are special whilst Grade II are also valuable but more common. In 2003, Gwynedd Council, in partnership with Cadw, decided to commission a detailed review of all the listed buildings in the county (with the exception of the National Park area). As part of the study every listed building in the Gwynedd Council area was

visited. Photographs were taken, the condition of the buildings assessed and their current use recorded. Buildings were scored according to their condition, and assessed with regard to matters such as the condition of their walls, roofs, doors, water carrying apparatus etc.

A Survey by the Handley Company in 2007 provided detailed, thorough and recent information regarding listed buildings and structures, namely the most important historical buildings in the area. The information is summarised in the form of a table (See Appendix) which shows the number, grade and condition according to the results of a Review undertaken on behalf of Gwynedd Council.

Many historic buildings are still in use today – such as farmhouses, farm buildings, churches and chapels but some are not used and are deteriorating. It is important to retain and sustain historic buildings – including their individual character and also the character of groups of buildings such as village centres.

Archaeological and historical remains are important because they are evidence and a record of the way that past generations lived and worked. The remains are a means of linking the past with the present and of showing how our forebears lived. Historic remains can be a strong and living resource for children, local residents and visitors to the area. Presented in an effective manner, these resources and information about them can create and kindle interest.

Historic remains are an important resource and a feature which offers an opportunity to raise awareness and attract more people to the district to view and enjoy them. Also by becoming aware of the substantial historical features in the area visitors will gain an opportunity to appreciate more fully the background and the history of the area and its population. In turn, this will ensure appreciation and respect for the area, its resources and the local community.

The Llŷn and Bardsey Island area is one of 36 Landscapes of Outstanding Historical Interest in Wales according to the Register prepared by Cadw, CCW and ICAMOS (International Council on Ancient Monuments and Sites). The Llŷn area was included on this list because the area contains a large number of smaller remains over long periods of time which show continuity and development over the ages. The whole of the Llŷn area (to the west of the A499 road from Pwllheli to Trefor) has been included on the Register, an area of around 28,000 hectares. With reference to the Llŷn area the register states “here is great and unparalleled wealth and variety, mostly archaeological and historical features on a smaller scale, which together form a co-coordinated and integrated whole, showing the territorial continuity and unity of the Llŷn area from maybe the pre-historical period.”

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust has undertaken work involving an assessment of the historical character of different areas within Gwynedd (areas included on the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historical Interest). The purpose of the work was to identify the most important features and the specific historical character of the different areas and to utilise the information in the management of future work. The study analyses and summarises the historic character of Llŷn effectively under various themes and a total of 22 sub-areas of different character have been defined on the basis of history, landscape features and key processes. Detailed information is available on the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust website ([www.heneb.co.uk](http://www.heneb.co.uk)).

Cadw is responsible for safeguarding the most important historic resources in Wales. The most important archaeological remains have been designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM's) and thus receive special protection from any harm. Cadw is also responsible for recording the information and for assessing the condition of the SAM's. Also Cadw is responsible for listing the

most important buildings and structures on the basis of their special historical or architectural character (Grade I II\* or II). The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) is responsible for researching and record archaeology, buildings, landscapes and maritime remains from prehistory to the present.

Policy guidance on the historic environment in Wales is provided by the Welsh Government in Planning Policy Wales (Chapter 6) and in the Technical Advice Notes which is being prepared during 2016. Gwynedd Council is also responsible for preparing a Development Plan which includes planning policies relating to safeguarding and sustaining different aspect of the historic environment.

Gwynedd Council does not have an archaeological service by now but an important service is provided by the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust. The Trust is responsible for the Historic Environment Register and for information and guidance on planning and conservation issues.

As regards buildings and structures Gwynedd Council employs a Building Conservation Officer and specialised information is available by establishments such as Cadw and the Georgian Society. Gwynedd Council can also protect individual buildings and structures through the planning system and enforcement and also can designate important built areas as Conservation Areas.

As well as protecting individual buildings, local councils can designate important historical areas as Conservation Areas. According to the Town and Country Act (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) 1990, if an area is “of special architectural or historical value” then it is desirable to “maintain or improve its character and appearance”. The special quality of the area can derive from a combination of a number of factors such as buildings grouped together, different patterns of streets, open spaces, building features and landscape features.

The National Trust is an important landowner in the area (including some important historic sites and buildings such as Plas yn Rhiw and Phorthdinllaen). The National Trust has a good record of caring for it’s property and employs conservation officers and architects.

Cymdeithas Hanes ac Archaeoleg Llŷn (Llŷn Archaeology and History Society) was designated some years back but unfortunately the Society has not been operative recently and there is no other local historical environment conservation society. However, Cyfeillion Llŷn, was established to sustain the area’s language and culture and there may be an opportunity to extend to the field of conserving the historical environment.

The Main Aim of the Management Plan as regards the historic environment can be seen below:

**Main Aim**

<p><b>SUSTAIN AND IMPROVE THE CONDITION OF THE RANGE OF DIFFERENT FEATURES WHICH FORM PART OF LLŷN’S HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE NEED TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF HABITATS AND SPECIES ON INTERNATIONALLY DESIGNATED SITES.</b></p>
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## **Special Features**

### **Early historic remains**

Considering the length of time that has passed it is surprising that any evidence of the existence of the early generations in our area has survived. In the Llŷn area, however, several archaeological remains have survived and a number of antiquities have also been found and preserved – a number of Llŷn antiquities are being kept in the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff. Here is some information regarding the early periods and the remains found in the Llŷn area:

**The Mesolithic Age** (c.10,000 – 4,500 B.C) – this is the earliest historical period represented by human remains in this area. Chiselled stone and flint remains have been found in the area, and also tools such as knives and scrapers.

**The Neolithic Age** (c. 4,500 – 2,500 B.C) – The earliest remains on the Llŷn landscape include burial chambers (such as Tan y Muriau in Rhiw and Bachwen near Clynnog) and monoliths. Also of considerable importance are the remains of an axe factory dating from this era, on Rhiw mountain.

**Bronze Age** (c. 1800 – 600 CC) – The cairns on the summits of Carnguwch, Yr Eifl and Rhiw mountains and within the fort at Tre'r Ceiri are the most obvious remains from this period.

**Iron Age** – there is strong evidence from this period to be seen throughout the area, especially obvious in the magnificent hill-forts at Tre'r Ceiri, on Garn Boduan, Garn Fadrun and Castell Odo on Mynydd yr Ystum. There are also smaller hill-forts such as Pen y Gaer, Llanaelhaearn. These were defensive sites and included round huts ('cytiau Gwyddelod') located within them. There are other sites, which include evidence of a more recent pattern of fields. These sites include Mynydd Anelog, Carnguwch and a site above Clynnog. Detailed information regarding the remains and the discoveries from this era can be found in the Caernarvonshire Atlas by Gwynedd Rural Council, 1977.

There are no remains from the **Roman** period in Llŷn which suggested they did not reach the area but there are relics from the early **Christian** period. Christianity spread through the Llŷn area from the fifth century onwards, and there is evidence of Irish and Cornish influence. A number of stones containing Latin inscriptions from the Early Christian period have been discovered, but some also contain inscriptions which are similar to early Welsh. Most likely, these were stones to commemorate heroes. The most significant examples in the Llŷn are those bearing the names of priests (most likely) namely VERACIVS and SENACVS, discovered near Anelog Chapel in Uwchmynydd (now the St. Hywyn Church in Aberdaron) and the stone discovered in – "MELI MEDICI" – referring to Melus the Physician.

Following the spread of Christianity a number of schools were established for monks, small churches (llan) and hermit cells – some of these developed to become well-known church sites such as Clynnog Fawr and Aberdaron. A number of these early sites were named after Celtic Saints such as Beuno (Clynnog, Pistyll and Carnguwch), Hywyn (Aberdaron), Aelhaearn (Llanaelhaearn) and Cwyfan (Edern and Tudweiliog). A number of churches were founded along the coast in places such as Pistyll and Llanengan, as resting places for the pilgrims who started making pilgrimages to Bardsey Island from the sixth century onwards. The fifteenth century saw a period of improvements to churches and new churches being established and this was repeated again in the nineteenth century.

There are a number of ancient wells around the Llŷn Peninsula, some dating back to the pre-Christian period and proof of the location of sites sacred to our pagan forefathers. Later a number of these wells became important Christian destinations, and the belief was that some of them possessed special healing powers, among them Ffynnon Aelrhiw, Ffynnon Aelhaearn and Ffynnon Fyw. Many of these wells have sacred connections e.g. Ffynnon Saint in Aberdaron and most importantly Ffynnon Fair in Uwchmynydd where the pilgrims used to drink before embarking on the crossing to Bardsey Island.

### **The Medieval Period (5<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Century)**

Traditional field boundaries are all important historic features showing the farming pattern in the past and many date back to this period. They are part of the historic environment which contributes so much to the appearance of the landscape and they are also part of the heritage and culture of the area. Although some of the boundaries have – over a period of time – disappeared as a result of fields being joined and improvements introduced, on the whole the historical field patterns in Llŷn have survived remarkably well. This is especially true of the western part of the Peninsula and from the top of Uwchmynydd the boundaries and the pattern formed is clearly visible.

The traditional method of erecting boundaries in the Llŷn area is dry stone walling, soil and stone banks (cloddiau) and hedges. The most common of these on the is the cloddiau stone and soil banks and these have a special character as the stones as a rule pointed upwards. Some have been planted with hedges whilst others remain bare. They are a very effective method of forming a boundary and of offering shelter for stock, but they are also important from an ecological aspect because they form habitats for a variety of animals, plants, insects and birds.

The dry stone walls are very common in the parts of the AONB where stones were plentiful, namely on the slopes of the igneous projections commonly encountered within the area: Bwlch Mawr, Gyrn Ddu, Yr Eifl, Mynydd Carnguwch, Mynydd Nefyn, Garn Fadrun and Mynydd Rhiw. These are strong walls, up to 5 – 6 feet in height and up to 3-4 feet in width in places (in the Rhiw area, there are some exceptionally wide walls). Some of the stone walls were demolished over a period of time, mostly on the lower slopes of the hills where attempts had been made to improve the land and extend the size of the fields.

Another method of land enclosure is hedging but this is not very common in Llŷn. Hedges are important for visual and historical reasons and also as habitats.

From looking at historical maps it becomes obvious that many of the field boundaries were demolished to form larger fields during the latter half of the last century. There was no information available regarding the number of stone walls, soil banks or hedges in the Llŷn AONB when reviewing the Management Plan but in general there has been a deterioration in the condition of stone walls and soil banks and some stretches have been completely lost. On the other hand, improvements are being carried out in some places, thanks to agri-environmental schemes which offer grants for the restoration of walls, banks and hedges e.g. Special Environment Area, Tir Cynnal, Tir Gofal and the Gwynedd Nature Action Project.

Some useful information regarding these features was received from the Llŷn Peninsula Review of Soil Banks by Gwynedd Council in 2007. The review concentrated on the western end of the Llŷn Peninsula (roughly from Cwmistir headland down to the western corner of Porth Neigwl). The study used a combination of different techniques for assessing the condition of boundaries,

including a review of maps, aerial photographs and field visits. Because the task was mainly based on desk work the study points out that there was an element of uncertainty because of the difficulty of distinguishing between boundaries etc. The Review shows a high density of banks within the area in question - approximately 60% of the boundaries were soil banks, 29% were hedges and 6% dry stone walls and it seems that one or two boundaries had become completely dilapidated. It was impossible to define around 4% of the boundaries.

The Review also looked briefly at the number of fields in the area and compared the situation in some places with things as they were back in 1953. The work showed that the number of fields in some areas had been reduced substantially in fifty years – which also shows that many boundaries have been lost. See the Study for more detailed information.

### **The Post-Medieval Period (1500-1800)**

**Churches and chaples** - following the development of nonconformity in Llŷn from the middle of the seventeenth century onwards, chapels were built for the various denominations. The first Congregational chapel namely Capel Newydd in Nanhoron was built in 1769. This remarkable chapel is still standing today and listed as a Grade 1 building as probably the first Congregational chapel in north Wales. The first Methodist chapels in the area were built in Bryncroes (1752) and in Uwchmynydd (1774). Various other denominations, such as the Baptists, also built chapels in the area towards the end of this period, some of these are still standing to this day.

**Homes of the Gentry** - The "Uchelwyr" (gentry) were an important element of Welsh society between 1300 and 1700. These were from old families with a long lineage and links to the "tywysogion" (princes). They were wealthy individuals who owned land and property and employed servants and sponsored poets. Many were given roles as JPs or Sheriffs while others became deacons or archdeacons.

Many of the gentry built substantial houses or small mansion houses and many are still standing today - places such as Castellmach, Bodfel, Bodwrdda, Rhydolion, Carreg an Trygan. On the other hand many have also been lost - for example Madryn, Penrhos and Saethon

**Cottages and houses** – many basic cottages were built during this period - the main building materials would be stone and soil. They were simple houses of one room, a crogluft and a straw roof. They were the homes of the ordinary people – the cottagers and were built very simply and swiftly. Many cottages from this period have been demolished or altered substantially but there are some well kept examples and some have been listed by Cadw. Some larger, two story houses from this period can also still be seen - they were small farmhouses or homes of the more wealthy individuals.

**Small harbours** - many small harbours were developed along the Llŷn coast during the seventeenth and eighteenth century. Agricultural produce was exported and many items such as foods and materials were imported. Some remains of this early trading heritage still remains.

### **The Industrial/ Modern era (1800-)**

**Quarrying** - Many granite quarries were developed in the area during the nineteenth century. The main ones were Gyrn Ddu, Yr Eifl (Trefor), Porth y Nant, Cae'r Nant, Carreg y Llam, Gwylwyr (Nefyn) and Tir y Cwmwd (Llanbedrog). These quarries have made a substantial contribution to the unique character of northern Llŷn. Even today, we have not only the remains of the quarries

themselves and the accompanying buildings and equipment but also remains of the inclines, stages and docks for exporting the produce. Villages were developed close to some of the quarries – villages such as Trefor, Llithfaen and Nant Gwrtheyrn.

The granite quarries provided stones for constructing of many buildings in Llŷn during this period and most of the traditional and listed buildings in the area were built of local granite stone. Much of the granite was also chiselled into sets and exported to the industrial cities of north west England, mostly to Liverpool and Manchester. Although a number of books refer to the granite quarries and the websites Penllyn.com and Rhiw.com contain some information, no interpretation work has been completed and no exhibition held to display the history of the industry.

**Mining** – There is evidence of some mining on certain sites on the Llŷn Peninsula from the end of the Tudor period, with increasing activity from around 1760. When the mining industry was at its peak, lead, copper and zinc were mined in the area, giving employment to around 200 workers. Up to the end of the nineteenth century there was substantial lead mining in the Bwlchtocyn area and there are still many remains to be seen there today – for example, the old mine funnel and the underground tunnels.

Manganese mining started in Rhiw in 1827 and by 1840 it employed 50 workers. The mine at Rhiw was busy during the two world wars and it is estimated that 196,770 tons were produced there between 1894 and 1945. There was also a Manganese (Mango) mine in Porth Ysgo, and remains of the equipment for transporting the material to the sea shore can still be seen today. There is no longer any mining carried out in the Llŷn.

**Agriculture** - because Llŷn has a strong agricultural tradition it is only natural that there are a large number of farmhouses, as well as agricultural buildings, which are of historical importance. Some of the farmhouses are small whilst others are substantial, boasting connections with eminent Llŷn gentry such as the masters of Bodwrdda, Carreg, Meillionnydd, Castellmarch, Bodnithoedd and Elernion. Many farmhouses and farm buildings were developed by the Estates of Glynllifon, Nanhoron and the Faenol and they were designed to a specific pattern, for example with outbuildings surrounding the farmyard. Also the remains of two windmills are still standing today near Bryn Felin, Llanengan and on Foel Fawr, Mynytho – these have been listed by Cadw (Grade II).

**Common land enclosure** - Early in this period (1800 – 1850) significant parts of common land were enclosed in various parishes – such as Rhoshirwaun, Aberdaron, Llanbedrog, Llaniestyn and Pistyll. The new lands, which were claimed by landlords such as Ashheton-Smith and Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn, resulted in the building of substantial stone walls in straight lines some of which can still be seen on the landscape today. There was significant opposition to these enclosures in some areas.

**Harbours and shipbuilding** - Coal was also imported through various small ports along the Llŷn coast and coal yards, or what remains of them, can still be seen in a number of places such as Porth Ysgaden, Porthor and Aberdaron. Lime kilns were developed close to some of these ports and the remains are still to be seen in a number of places such as Abersoch and Porth Ysgaden.

In order to service the maritime industry, landing stages were developed thus enabling the export of granite stone from Trefor, Porth y Nant and Carreg y Llam and in Porth Neigwl and Porth Ysgo for ships carrying manganese from the Rhiw area. The remains of some of these wooden structures can still be seen on the beaches.

**Religious buildings** - Some nonconformist chapels had been built in the Eighteenth Century as noted but the rate of building and re-building/ extending increased rapidly from 1800 onwards and many of these buildings can still be seen today. However by the mid twentieth century changes began to take place and congregations dwindled and from the 1980s onwards chapels and churches were seen to close and this tendency has continued. By now, many of the churches and chapels are closed, a number have been demolished and an increasing number adapted for other uses.

**Transport structures** – there were more journeys along the area's roads from the nineteenth century onwards and road building and improvement took place which included erecting bridges (e.g. Aberdaron bridge, Edern bridge) and putting in milestones seen across the Llŷn area. These structures make a significant contribution to local distinctiveness of the area's rural and historical environment. Unfortunately some of these structures can be damaged e.g. by wide loads and mechanical hedge-cutting machinery.

**Villages, Estates and homes** - Historical and traditional villages formed by a group of historical buildings are also an important part of the built inheritance of the Llŷn area. It can be said that villages and towns within the AONB fall into three categories: coastal villages, rural villages and quarrying villages – such as Trefor, Nant Gwrtheyrn and Pistyll.

Because of the outlying location of the Llŷn area, change and development have been slow and this has been helpful in maintaining the character of the traditional villages. Some changes have taken place in every village but it is the popular coastal villages such as Abersoch and Morfa Nefyn which have seen substantial change at the expense of the inherent character.

The “Conservation Area” designation has been established under the planning system to protect parts of the built heritage. Under the relevant act (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Planning Act 1990) Local Authorities are responsible for considering whether parts of a village or a group of buildings within their area merit designation as a Conservation Area. A conservation area is defined as : “*an area of special architectural or historical value whose character and appearance it would be desirable to preserve*”. The area in question has to be of special quality to qualify and a number of issues such as buildings, street pattern, green spaces and trees can contribute to this.

The Local Authority has designated a total of 11 Conservation Areas within, or near to the AONB at Aberdaron, Clynnog, Llanaelhaearn, Llanbedrog, Llanengan, Llangian, Llaniestyn, Nefyn, Porthdinllaen, Trefor, ac Ynys Enlli. The “Building Design Partnership” Company (BDP) made a series of recommendations as regards Conservation Areas in a report published in 2003 and the AONB Service commissioned further work on assessing Conservation Area in 2015.

Many homes were built during this period and many of them are typical of the nineteenth and early twentieth century – two storey, double fronted and slate roof. Later on in the twentieth century more varied design came through and bungalows became popular towards the end of the century.

Numerous large manor houses were also built for the Gentry or for farmers during this period – the most notable within or close to the AONB boundary are Plas yn Rhiw, Plas Glyn y Weddw, Plas



Nanhoron, Plas Cefnamwlch, Plas Boduan and Plas yr Eifl.

## **Key Issues**

There are numerous key issues as regards the Historic Environment here in Llŷn as there are opportunities for the Management Plan to raise awareness and identify some actions to address these issues – if practical to do so. Identifying these key issues was done by assessment of what is happening out in the environment and consulting with individuals and various bodies and societies as part of the Plan preparation and review process.

### **Erosion by human actions**

The cairns and round houses on the top of many of Llŷn's hills and mountains, such as Y Eifl, Garn Fadrun, Garn Boduan a Garn Fawr have survived in surprisingly original condition considering they are centuries old. However there is a slow deterioration over time by natural processes and also by people surveying or visiting the sites and sometimes disturbing stonework or not following the proper paths. Care needs to be taken when raising awareness of historic sites and encouraging people to visit in case of increasing this sort of pressure.

### **Accidental damage**

Sometimes archaeological or historical remains can be damaged accidentally due to lack of knowledge regarding their presence. This can happen during building, digging or maintenance work – e.g milestones being damaged by hedge trimming machinery.

Things have improved of late in this respect as people become more aware of historic remains and monuments – for example farmers get information through agri-environment schemes. There is a place to continue with awareness raising such as talks, information leaflets (as produced by GAT) and discussing with landowners and land managers.

### **Relics removed from the area**

In the past some important artefacts found in the area have been removed to be stored and displayed in museums. While understanding that important relics need to be safeguarded and be available to be seen nationally there is a case for displaying some of these relics locally because they are part of the area's heritage. Some of these could be displayed in the Maritime Museum, however there is no other museum in the Llŷn area.

Examples of such relics that have been taken from the area would include a Bronze Age brooch, Bronze Age and Iron age pottery and tools (National Museum Wales) and a crown belonging to the king of Bardsey Island (Liverpool Maritime Museum).

### **Coastal Erosion**

Significant erosion is taking place on some sections of the AONB and this is a big threat to some sites which form a part of the historic environment. It is the soft sedimentary cliffs which erode badly and agricultural land and field boundaries have been lost in areas along the north and south coast such as the Porth Neigwl area.

Two important historic sites which have been affected by coastal erosion are the remains of an Iron Age fort on Porthdinllaen headland and parts of a Second World War training base at Porth Neigwl. A recent project by Gwynedd Archaeology Trust (Saving Archaeology) has identified sites under threat and has carried out survey and research work before more remains are lost e.g. at Porthdinllaen. It is important to continue with this type of work before elements of the historic environments are lost forever.

### **Climate change**

It has been shown that there is gradual change in world climate and some tendencies have been identified locally which affect the historic environment, these include: warmer winters with long spells of rain, periods of heavy rain, more unsettled summer weather. These trends can be harmful by creating flooding which can affect historic sites and buildings and dampness which is also bad for older buildings and structures.

### **Agricultural developments**

In the past developments associated with agriculture have had a significant impact upon the historic environment. During the push for increased productivity in the 1960s – 80s a lot of drainage work, land improvement and removal of field boundaries was carried out. By today however there is more emphasis on retaining and re-introducing historic features through ag-environment schemes.

### **New buildings and structures**

New buildings and structures, including road improvement schemes, can affect archaeological and historic remains and the character of the historic landscape generally. It is therefore important to avoid development where important historic remains are present and to undertake survey work if insufficient information is available. GAT can provide guidance on this matter through the planning process.

Also new development near Listed Buildings or within Conservation Areas can be an issue. Not all new development blends in and are in-keeping with the site and surroundings. Design guides can be effective in this respect.

### **Adaptation of historic and traditional buildings**

It is important that historic buildings are being used and not lie vacant - this will ensure that they're retained and maintained for the future. However it must be conceded that some changes will need to be made for their new use and to make them more suitable for modern use.

During recent years many planning applications have been received for converting historic buildings into homes - buildings such as chapels, churches, former schools and old farm buildings. Some conversions manage to retain the original character well while some are not as successful. The main problems with such schemes are unsuitable extensions and inappropriate materials.

To ensure that historic buildings are re-used successfully planning policies need to be effectively applied and good practice on materials and design adopted.

## **Care and repair**

There has been a deterioration in the condition of some historical features within the area due to not being properly looked after and maintained. This can be because of financial constraints or due to the buildings or structures not being used e.g chapels, churches, old wells and traditional farm buildings.

Also at times sub-standard work or inappropriate work is carried out on old buildings and structures such as cement instead of lime mortar and fitting unsuitable doors and windows. There are opportunities in this respect to raise awareness, improve skills and encouraging owners to maintain the character of historic buildings and structures. In this respect grants are available from some sources e.g Glastir and Cadw but there is some work involved and conditions may be attached.

Lack of maintenance can also be an issue on publicly owned land such as road verges, parks, and other open space. Also publicly owned streets and pavements can be degraded by poor surfaces, road sign clutter and untidy bus shelters. The report commissioned by the AONB Service on the Evaluation and Improvement of Conservation Areas highlighted many such examples in the area's villages.

## **Minor alterations degrading Conservation Areas**

The above mentioned Report also hi-lighted a range of minor development which have slowly degraded the character and appearance of the area's Conservation Areas. The type of matters which are referred to in the report include incorrect rendering, doors and windows of unsuitable design or material, satellite dishes on facades, solar panels and unsuitable boundary walls.

The Report recommends a series of actions to remedy the situation including specific works on some buildings and sites and preparing a Good Practice Guide book - with the help and co-operation of owners and tenants.

## **Grants and projects**

On a positive note there have been numerous conservation projects in recent years by local bodies which have had a positive effect on the AONB's historical environment. Below is a list of some examples:

Holy wells - research and conservation work - AONB Service

Village signs and fingerposts - AONB Service

Meillionnydd Iron age fort surveying and research- Bangor University

Iron age hillfort interpretation panels - Llyn Landscape Partnership

Porthdinllaen iron age fort - surveying and interpretation - Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

Llyn Maritime Museum - restoration and refurbishment work

Religious buildings - a number have received grants from the Llŷn Sustainable Development Fund – Llandegwning Church, Salem Chapel, Sarn, Tŷ Mawr Chapel, Bryncroes, Llanaelhaearn Church

Grant are available through Cadw, The Heritage Lottery, The Sustainable Development Fund and farm stewardships schemes such as Glastir towards work o repair, restore and maintain elements of the historic environment.

## **Policies**

- HP 1.** PRIORITISE IDENTIFICATION, RECORDING AND MONITORING THE CONDITION OF THE AREA'S WEALTH OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES.

It is important to be aware of the wide range of historic resources that are in Llŷn and to undertake research to underpin our knowledge of the past. There will therefore be an emphasis on defining elements of the and recording the information through research and projects such as photographic records, databases and record keeping. This is especially true as regards any resources that are under threat from degradation or erosion. It is also important to survey the condition of archaeological remains, landscape features and structures. This will safeguard information for the future and identify features which are deteriorating or under pressure.

- HP 2.** PLACE EMPHASIS ON MAINTAINING AND RESTORING KEY HISTORICAL FEATURES INCLUDING ARCHEOLOGICAL REMAINS, HISTORICAL REMAINS AND HISTORICAL STRUCTURES AND BUILDINGS.

As well as recording condition emphasis will be placed on maintaining and restoring elements of the historic environment. Databases, research and assessments will provide details of opportunities and resources available. The aim is to work in partnership on projects and support other projects that help realise this policy. Owners will need to be made aware of the support available in the form of advice and grants.

- HP 3.** AIM TO ENSURE THAT NEW DEVELOPMENTS OR ALTERATIONS RESPECT AND REINFORCE THE CHARACTER AND APPEARANCE OF HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AND PROMOTE GOOD PRACTICE IN TERMS OF MAINTENANCE, THE USE OF SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN.

This policy is related to historic buildings and structures in the area. The aim in this respect is to ensure that new development and alterations maintain and respect the historical character of these buildings. National and local planning policies will be of key importance in this respect. Also, there will be an emphasis on ensuring that historic buildings and structures are properly maintained by using the correct procedures and techniques. To realise this there is a need to work with others to raise awareness and promote good practice.

- HP 4.** RESIST DEVELOPMENTS THAT WOULD DEGRADE THE CHARACTER AND APPEARANCE OF CONSERVATION AREAS AND SUPPORT INITIATIVES TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS.

As noted earlier a host of small developments have had an impact on the character of the area's Conservation Areas. The purpose of this policy is to resist these types of developments and promote actions and projects which will help in restoring and maintaining these areas. A report commissioned by the AONB Service in 2015 has provided information on positive actions that are needed and has recommended working with others to prepare good practice guidelines among other things.

- HP 5.** RAISE AWARENESS AND PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING OF THE AREA'S HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENT AMONG FARMERS, PROPERTY OWNERS, LOCAL PEOPLE AND TOURISTS.

Raising awareness will increase interest and create a better understanding of different

elements of the historic environment. This is important for local communities and the tourist industry, but care must be taken to avoid too much pressure on resources.

Efforts to raise awareness generally will be supported but there will also need to be an emphasis on connecting more with people which can have a direct effect on resources – such as farmers, land and property owners and tenants.

**HP 6. PROMOTE BETTER ACCESS, AND THE ENJOYMENT OF KEY LOCAL HISTORICAL RESOURCES.**

Policy HP5 aims to raise awareness of the historical environment and associated features. This policy goes hand in hand with that in promoting better access to actual sites and buildings on the ground for local people and visitors to the area. Some projects to date by the AONB Service and other partners such as the Llŷn Landscape Partnership have been successful in this respect. There might also be an opportunity in this respect to explore the possibility of returning some historical relics to the area and putting them on display locally.